

Remarks

Claims 1-30 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent no. 5,963,738 (“Yamaki”) in view of U.S. patent no. 5,444,846 (“Nagashima”).

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections because the cited references do not disclose or suggest every element of any pending claim, as the following analysis shows.

Independent claims 1, 7, 16, 20, 23, and 28 each recite performing a function external to a management mode of the processor. Yamaki only mentions management mode in the context of performing functions within the management mode, and the office action admits in paragraph 2 that Yamaki does not disclose this limitation.

The office action then states that Nagashima provides this limitation. However, Nagashima never even uses the phrase ‘management mode’, much less discusses performing a function external to it. When justifying the use of Nagashima as a reference, the office action focuses instead on performing a function external to a ‘master computer’. ‘Management mode’ has nothing to do with whether functions are performed internal or external to a ‘master computer’. In most systems, all of the modes, including management mode, are performed by the same, single computer, and therefore all system functions are performed internal that computer. Any other functions that are performed without the direct control of the processor (for example, a direct memory access operation between a peripheral controller and memory) are unrelated to the type of mode

the system is currently operating in. The subject matter of Nagashima is completely unrelated to the operation of a management mode.

The remaining pending claims all depend from claims 1, 7, 16, 20, 23 and 28, and therefore contain the same limitations not disclosed or suggested by the cited references.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and indication of allowance by the Examiner is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions concerning this application, he or she is requested to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number shown below as soon as possible. If any fee insufficiency or overpayment is found, please charge any insufficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

Intel Corporation

Date:

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